



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

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### **2 VAC 5-100 – Rules and Regulations Governing the Qualifications for Humane Investigators**

**Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services**

February 18, 2008

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### **Summary of the Proposed Amendments to Regulation**

The Board of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Board) proposes to amend its regulations that govern the qualifications of humane investigators to clarify that individuals who want to be approved as humane investigators or animal control officers can file their applications electronically.

### **Result of Analysis**

The benefits likely exceed the costs for this proposed change.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

Currently, the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) requires individuals who seek approval as humane investigators or animal control officers to file an application for approval with the state veterinarian. Although the regulations that govern the qualifications of humane investigators are currently silent on how these applications for approval must be filed, the state veterinarian does currently accept electronically filed applications.

The Board proposes to update these regulations so that electronic filing is explicitly allowed. Because electronic applications are already accepted, neither VDACS nor the state veterinarian is likely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory change. Interested individuals who may not have known that applications could be filed electronically will benefit from the clarity that the proposed language will add to these regulations.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

This proposed regulatory change will affect all individuals who apply to the state veterinarian for approval as humane investigators or animal control officers. VDACS reports that approximately 120 of these applications are filed annually.

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

No locality will be particularly affected by this proposed regulatory action.

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

This regulatory action will likely have no impact on employment in the Commonwealth.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

This regulatory action will likely have no affect on the use or value of private property in the Commonwealth.

## **Small Businesses: Costs and Other Effects**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

## **Small Businesses: Alternative Method that Minimizes Adverse Impact**

Small businesses in the Commonwealth are unlikely to incur any costs on account of this regulatory action.

## **Real Estate Development Costs**

This regulatory action will likely have no affect on real estate development costs in the Commonwealth.

## **Legal Mandate**

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.H of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 36 (06). Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to

be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. Further, if the proposed regulation has adverse effect on small businesses, Section 2.2-4007.H requires that such economic impact analyses include (i) an identification and estimate of the number of small businesses subject to the regulation; (ii) the projected reporting, recordkeeping, and other administrative costs required for small businesses to comply with the regulation, including the type of professional skills necessary for preparing required reports and other documents; (iii) a statement of the probable effect of the regulation on affected small businesses; and (iv) a description of any less intrusive or less costly alternative methods of achieving the purpose of the regulation. The analysis presented above represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.